

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051256

63

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 PER-01 NSCE-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

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S/S-O: M. TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 105

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA, US

SUBJECT: DAVIS NOMINATION: MEETING WITH AF AMBASSADORS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM INGERSOLL

1. AS YOU REQUESTED, I MET THIS AFTERNOON FOR AN HOUR WITH ALL THIRTY-THREE CHIEFS OF MISSION OF AF REGION (EXCEPT SOUTH AFRICA). I MADE ALL THE POINTS AGREED UPON AND PARTICULARLY STRESSED INTERNAL NATURE OF APPOINTMENT, YOUR CONFIDENCE AND PRESIDENT'S IN DAVIS, HIS OUTSTANDING QUALITIES, IMPORTANCE OF SEPARATING THE MAN FROM THE POSITION. I EXTENDED THEM AN INVITATION TO MEET WITH YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER YOUR RETURN.

2. WHEN I THREW THE MEETING OPEN FOR QUESTIONS SEVEN CHIEFS OF MISSION SPOKE, TWO OF WHOM (GUINEA, ZAIRE) EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE CHANCE TO MEET AND PROMISED TO REPORT MY WORDS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. FIVE OTHERS (LIBERIA, BOTSWANA, NIGERIA, GHANA, TANZANIA) HAD VARYING RANGE OF CRITICISMS, FOR EXAMPLE:

A. MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED BY YOU.

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PAGE 02 STATE 051256

B. MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED EARLIER.

C. SENDING AN "INTEMPERATE" LETTER TO THE OAU AND THEN PUBLISHING IT WAS A MISTAKE.

D. MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD AFTER OAU RESOLUTION AND AMBASSADORS GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO RELAY OUR VIEWS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

E. IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THE MAN FROM THE POSITION.

F. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN CRITICIZING AN APPOINTMENT OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE AFRICAN STATES.

G. DESPITE ALL THAT WE HAVE SAID IN DEFENSE OF DAVIS HE WILL HAVE A HARD JOB OBTAINING AFRICAN CONFIDENCE.

3. I RESPONDED TO THESE POINTS FORCEFULLY, DRAWING ON THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR LETTER TO OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI. I AGAIN STRESSED DAVIS' CREDENTIALS AND FACT THAT THIS APPOINTMENT INDICATIVE OF ADMINISTRATION'S DEEP INTEREST IN AFRICA. I ALSO STRESSED IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS THAT THE DAVIS APPOINTMENT IS PRIMARILY A MATTER OF US SOVEREIGNTY, THOUGH WE CAN UNDERSTAND AFRICAN INTEREST. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS MEETINGS, MISSION CHIEFS, TOSEC 105
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE051256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EWMULCAHY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750079-0760
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750371/aaaacmci.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAVIS NOMINATION: MEETING WITH AF AMBASSADORS FOR THE SECRETARY FROM INGERSOLL
TAGS: PFOR, XA, US, (DAVIS, NATHANIEL)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006